

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Forty-first street and Sixth Avenue.—ROMEO AND
JULIET, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Nelson,
Mr. Barnes.AMERICAN INSTITUTE.
Third Avenue, between Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth
streets.—INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.COLONEL'S.
Broadway, corner of Thirty-fifth street.—STORM OVER
PARIS, and MISS JARLEY'S WAX WORKS, at 8:30 P. M.
and 10:30 P. M. Jennie Norton and Lucie Waters.WOODS MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Third Street.—MAB, at 2 P. M.;
closes at 4:30 P. M. EAST LYNNE, at 8 P. M.; closes at
10:30 P. M. Jennie Norton and Lucie Waters.OLYMPIC THEATRE.
No. 234 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45
P. M.THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 514 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30
P. M.PARK THEATRE.
Broadway, between Twenty-third and Twenty-second
streets.—GILDED AGE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
Mr. John T. Raymond.BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Italian Opera.—RUY BLAS, signora Potentini, Miss
Cary, Signor Carpi.STEINWAY HALL.
Fourth Street.—REGINA DULCARE, at 8 P. M.;
closes at 10:30 P. M.GERMANIA THEATRE.
Fourth Street.—LATO VON EISEN, at 8 P. M.; closes
at 10:30 P. M.BOOTH'S THEATRE.
Corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth Avenue.—
HARRY VILL, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss
Cushman.WALLACK'S THEATRE.
Broadway.—THE ROMANCE OF A POOR YOUNG
MAN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Ada Dyer,
Mr. Montague.ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Fourth Street.—LEUTREAU ON ANCIEN EGYPT,
at 8 P. M. Bayard Taylor.NIRLO'S GARDEN.
Broadway, between Prince and Johnson streets.—THE
DELUDE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. The Kirby
Family.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—ROCKBROCK;
OR THE DOUBLE WEDDING, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.
Miss Mary Davenport, Miss Sara Jewett, Louis
P. M.MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.
Fifth Street.—LATO VON EISEN, at 8 P. M.; closes at
10:30 P. M.ROBINSON HALL.
Sixteenth Street, between Broadway and Fifth Avenue.—
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.
West Twenty-third Street, near Sixth Avenue.—NEGO
MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Van Bryant.METROPOLITAN THEATRE.
No. 55 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10
P. M.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth Street.—NEGO
MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, Oct. 23, 1874.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Owing to the great pressure on our ad-
vertising columns, advertisers would favor us by
sending in their advertisements early in the
day. This course will secure a proper classi-
fication, helping the public and the Herald.
Advertisements intended for our Sunday issue
may be sent with great advantage in the earlier
days of the week; it will prevent confusion
and mistakes arising from the immense
quantity of work to be done on
Saturdays. Advertisements will be re-
ceived daily at this office, the branch office,
No. 1,265 Broadway, between Thirty-first and
Thirty-second streets, and the Brooklyn
branch office, corner of Fulton and Boerum
streets, up to nine P. M., and at the Harlem
branch office, 124th Street and Third Avenue,
up to half-past seven P. M. Let advertisers
remember that the earlier their advertisements
are in the Herald office the better for them-
selves and for us.

From our reports this morning the probabilities
are that the weather to-day will be foggy or partly
cloudy.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were a
trifle stronger and more active. Money ad-
vanced on call loans to 5 per cent. Gold was
firm at 110½ a 110.

SPAIN AND ST. DOMINGO.—A treaty of amity
has been concluded between Spain and the
republic of Dominica. A flank movement
in that quarter upon Cuban filibusters.

THE UNION LEAGUE.—The leaders of the
Union League have been holding a sort of
general council at Baltimore. They are
afraid, no doubt, that the rebellion is not yet
ended.

CUBA.—A GENERAL AMNESTY.—It is reported
that General Concha is deliberating upon a
general amnesty to the Cubans. If this expe-
dient had been tried five or six years ago it
might have saved a hundred thousand soldiers
to Spain; but it is never too late for the cause
of humanity.

THE LONG ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
has dropped from its list of churches the Lee
avenue church, of Brooklyn, for departing
from the faith in admitting parties not regu-
lar church members to the Communion of the
Lord's Supper. The Rev. Hyatt Smith's
powerful protest defines his position.

HIGHWAYMEN ON LONG ISLAND are becom-
ing somewhat impudent and dangerous.
From the account of their exploits which we
give this morning there is evidently an organ-
ized band of these outlaws established some-
where in the woods between Jamaica and
Flushing, and they ought to be hunted out.

Judge Black on the Louisiana Question.

The controversy which has been for several
weeks in progress in the columns of the
HERALD on the legal points involved in the
Louisiana question receives a great accession
of interest in the forcible letter of Mr.
Jeremiah S. Black which we print to-day.
Judge Black is one of the most noted public
men of our time. No statesman or lawyer
of his standing has such marked pecu-
liarities of individual character. In the long
list of great lawyers who have held the office
of Attorney General of the United States there
is none who brought with him to that station
a more masculine cast of intellect, greater
legal astuteness, superior political courage, or
a more admirable capacity for clear and
forcible writing. In strength and manliness
of style Judge Black has hardly an
equal among the members of the Ameri-
can Bar. Disdaining trivial ornaments
and flights of vulgar rhetoric, he ranks
with the masters of a style of composi-
tion of which the merit consists in express-
ing with clearness what one thinks with vigor.
It is always refreshing, even to those who
discount from Judge Black's opinions, to read a
paper by him on any important subject. He
is so explicit, so downright, so courageous;
his arguments are so direct and telling, his
language is so strong and sinewy, the air of
dead conviction which pervades every sen-
tence betokens so sincere and robust a nature,
that even his prejudices seem respectable, and
every reader is constrained to admit that
there is at least one man in American politics
who is no trimmer. This strong flavor of
genuineness, both in substance and style,
which characterizes all the productions of
Judge Black makes him one of the most de-
lightful of writers to keenly logical minds.
He is a provoking, and therefore an exciting
reader; for, although he often compels dis-
sent, the reader feels that an equipment of
intellectual resources is needed to refute him.

The HERALD finds nothing to reward its
self-congratulation in Judge Black's strong and
able letter. At the time he wrote it he could
not have seen the HERALD's recent arguments,
undertaking to prove that the *de facto* govern-
ment of a State is the only one which the
President can legally recognize, and yet this
position is the very pivot of all Judge Black
has to say. It is the central thread of his
letter on which all his other arguments are
strung. "It is the call of the *de facto* govern-
ment," says Judge Black, "that the Presi-
dent must respond to." This principle per-
meates all law, municipal and international,
and its observance is absolutely necessary to
the preservation of our domestic tran-
quillity, as well as the peace of the world." Of
course we feel flattered and strengthened to
have our main position so strongly indorsed
by a veteran jurist of Judge Black's eminent
standing. Supported in this position by the
great authority of Webster in the last genera-
tion, and of Judge Black among our contem-
poraries, our confidence in our own legal per-
ceptions is justifiably strengthened. We are
encouraged to believe that we hit the great
central consideration by which this con-
troversy must be determined.

We must confess, however, that our battery
has been turned against us by Judge Black's
dexterous logic. From the same impregnable
premises which we employed to justify the
President in his support of Kellogg Judge
Black deduces the precisely opposite con-
clusion that the President ought to have re-
cognized McEnery at the time of the Septem-
ber outbreak in Louisiana. He dissents
alike from the position of Mr. Johnson and
the position of Mr. O'Connor, and contends
that the duty of the President to recognize
the *de facto* government bound him to re-
cognize McEnery, because McEnery had gained
possession, and in virtue of his possession of
the State authority was entitled to be recog-
nized as the *de facto* Governor of the State.
We admire the logical dexterity with which
our main argument is thus turned against us,
but we are glad that the true hinge
of the controversy has at last been recognized
by a jurist of sufficient weight to make his
opinions respected. We believe that the duty
of the President to recognize the *de facto*
government of a State, which Judge Black, in
unconscious indorsement of the HERALD's
position, so strongly maintains, is the true
way to a correct solution of this difficult prob-
lem, and we do not despair of showing that
Judge Black's ingenious application of this
fundamental principle is not quite warranted.
When jurists of such deserved eminence as
those who have been heard in our columns
differ on such a subject we cannot be charged
with presumption in having an opinion of our
own. When the guides we have summoned
point in contrary ways we must select our own
path. Our opinions, of course, must count
for nothing except so far as we support them
by reasons which the legal mind of the
country will recognize as having some weight.
We must stand or fall, like the other partici-
pants in this interesting controversy, with
the logical force of our arguments.

Judge Black thinks that, as a strict conse-
quence of the duty of the President to recog-
nize the *de facto* government of a State, he
ought to have recognized the McEnery govern-
ment in September, when it had got posses-
sion. None of Judge Black's admirers
can appreciate more fully than we do the logi-
cal keenness of his plausible conclusion from
premises to which we stand committed; but
we hope to convince even him that this argu-
ment of his is more specious than solid. He
is too experienced and well read a publicist
to need to be reminded of facts which we feel
obliged to state for the information of readers
who must judge between us. At what
point in the existence of a government it is
entitled to be recognized as *de facto* is the hinge
on which this controversy turns as
between the HERALD and Judge Black.
We are in perfect agreement with
him on first principles, and our difference as
to their application is a mere question of
time and not a question of substance. Was
the McEnery government entitled to be con-
sidered as *de facto* from the moment that
Kellogg fled and took refuge in the New
Orleans Custom House? On this question
Judge Black assumes the affirmative; but we
think we can successfully maintain the nega-
tive. At any rate, this point is the pinch
of the question in dispute. Now Judge Black
has been Secretary of State, and, aside from
his having held that office, he is one of the
best informed men in the country on all sub-
jects connected with our foreign relations.

No statesman knows better than he that it
has been the uniform practice of our
government to recognize every *de facto*
foreign government, without inquiring into
the legitimacy of its title. But we put
the question to his candor, and feel certain
of the answer which must be
supplied by his information—has our govern-
ment ever recognized any foreign govern-
ment as *de facto* without waiting a reason-
able time to judge of its prospects of
stability? Nobody knows better than Judge
Black that our diplomatic history furnishes
no such instance. We have never recognized
any foreign government as *de facto* when it
was only one day or half a day old. But
President Grant was applied to by Kellogg
for assistance against domestic violence in
Louisiana before the Penn movement had
been three hours in possession, and it would
have been contrary to all precedents to have
recognized the latter as the *de facto* govern-
ment. The approved practice on this
subject is truly stated by Mr. Webster,
in a passage in his celebrated
Hulseman letter. He was speaking of Hun-
gary, in connection with the mission of Mr.
Dudley Mann, who had been sent to observe
the progress of affairs. Mr. Webster said:—
"It was only in the event that the new govern-
ment should appear, in the opinion of the
agent, to be firm and stable, that the Presi-
dent proposed to recommend its recognition." This
is the only safe rule in reference to new
governments. It would not become the dig-
nity of the President to recognize them on
the instant without taking time to inform
himself. The authority of the previous govern-
ment always continues to be acknowledged
until authentic information and proper deli-
beration satisfy the President that it has
been effectually overthrown. It would be
preposterous for him to decide so grave a
question at a moment's notice. When
Kellogg's application for assistance came
to him at midnight, and he was
obliged to decide on it at once,
it would have been perfectly absurd
for him to have recognized the McEnery
claims. At the time he made his decision the
McEnery affair had performed no function
of an actual government. It had never passed
any act of legislation. It had never levied or
collected a tax. No man had ever brought a
suit under its authority. No officer had ever
made an arrest under it in pursuance of a
legal process. It had never discharged one of
the many functions which devolve on a govern-
ment. Mr. Webster, in his great argu-
ment in the Rhode Island case, scouted the
claims of the Dorr government on the ground
that it existed only two days. "Its birth,"
he said, "its whole life and its death were ac-
complished in forty-eight hours." But if
forty-eight hours are not time enough
to entitle a new State government to
de facto recognition, assuredly three
hours of mob supremacy in a single
city are not sufficient. The President is bound
to follow the same sound and cautious rule
in recognizing State governments which has
always been adhered to in the case of foreign
governments. Judge Black fully concedes
this so far as relates to the necessity of always
recognizing the *de facto* government in both
cases, and the only point of difference between
him and the HERALD relates to the claim of
the McEnery government to be considered *de facto*
at the time when Kellogg made his last
application. The chief fault of his argument
is that it is not precise enough in marking
dates. Kellogg applied for support on the
instant, before his suppliants had performed
any act which entitled them to be regarded as
a government, and it was the duty of the
President to decide on the state of facts exist-
ing at the point of time when the application
was made.

General Dix and the Third Term.
As will be seen elsewhere, General Dix has
declared himself to our reporter upon the
question of the third term. The General an-
nounces that he is opposed to the whole
scheme—to the very idea of a third term as
repugnant to our institutions. If any one
will write him a letter on the subject he will
make his views known in an emphatic form.
So that if any of our autograph hunting fel-
low citizens have a fancy for the Governor's
manly writing they have only to address him
a letter on the third term to receive a response.
It is too late! Centennial Dix did not
wait until the rebellion was over—and he was
sure which side would win—before he issued
his order to shoot any man on the spot who
ventured to profane the American flag. He
took sides in the beginning, and commended
himself to the patriotism of the country by
the prompt blow he struck at exultant and
aspiring treason. Here for eighteen months
the third term has been stalking over the
land, growing more and more mighty every
day, menacing the peace and liberty of the
country, and Centennial Dix, like the rest of
the republican leaders, was afraid to speak,
lest he might offend the President. But Ohio
and Indiana spoke, and now the General finds
a voice.

What a great impression Centennial Dix
would have made had he said eighteen months,
or even six months ago, "Whoever ventures
to haul down the flag of republicanism for
the flag of Caesarism should be shot on the
spot!" But it is too late—too late!

NO LAW FOR SPECKLED TROUT.—In the
case tried on Tuesday for the enforcement
of the Game law prohibiting the sale of
speckled trout in this city at certain times
of the year it was clearly made out that the fish
sold was of the kind described in the law, and
there was no dispute that the fish was sold at
a period within the terms of the prohibition.
It was claimed that the fish was caught in a
foreign country, but not claimed that it came
within the exceptions to the prohibition made
in the law. The sale was therefore undoubt-
edly unlawful, and sportsmen had every reason
to anticipate a conviction. Moreover,
under the charge made to the jury, it would
seem impossible for the offenders to have
been acquitted; yet acquitted they were. Does
this flow from an inherent hostility on the
part of jurors to game laws, or is it a desperate
resolve to have trout when they can be had,
law or no law? But the Sportsman's Club will
probably not let so clear a case end there.

GONE IN.—Phelps was received in the
Albany Penitentiary yesterday with the
customary honors. The fifteen years ac-
crued him will give him ample time for
reflection.

The Election of Aldermen.

It is said that the Tammany chiefs have
decided to disregard that part of the city
charter which regulates the choice of Alder-
men. By the charter six new Aldermen are
elected by the city at large each year, but no
citizen can vote for more than four of the
six, which gives the political party which is
in the minority an opportunity of electing two.
The Tammany people contend that this
law is unconstitutional, and that every citizen
has a right to vote for every Alderman.
They found their argument on that provision
of the State constitution which declares that
every citizen possessing the requisite qualifica-
tions for voting at all "shall be entitled to vote
for all officers that now are or hereafter
may be elective by the people." It is hence
inferred that the electors of this city have a
right to vote for as many Aldermen as are to be
chosen, and not merely for two-thirds of them.
The party advantage of disregarding the char-
ter in this particular is manifest. Instead of
choosing four of the Aldermen, Tammany will
elect the whole six, if it proves to be a majority
in the city. The words of the constitution
seem to support the view on which the Tam-
many politicians intend to proceed, but it will
remain for the courts to decide whether they
correctly interpret the constitution. It is ob-
vious that its language cannot be taken quite
literally. If the Aldermen were chosen in single
districts no citizen would be entitled to
vote for more than one. We suppose there is
no question of the right of the Legislature to
district the city and thus restrict each citizen
to voting for only one member of the Board.
It is not unconstitutional, therefore, to restrain
a citizen to voting for less than the whole
number. Whether the form of restricting his
vote adopted by the charter is also constitu-
tional is a legal point which can be settled
only by a judicial decision. But it is evidently
rather a question of form than of substance.
Under the single district system the minority
would have a chance of carrying some of the
districts, and it is fair, even if it is not constitu-
tional, to allow them an equivalent advantage
on the general ticket system.

Mr. Howard and the Drama.

Mr. Bronson C. Howard, in a letter we
printed yesterday, declares that his comedy
of "Sarstoga" is not an adaptation from the
French. Mr. Howard is a young author of
conspicuous merit who has won fame as a
dramatist. We are glad to think he has
kept away from French ways and French
plots in his writings. We are especially glad
because it indicates on the part of young
writers a desire to work in American mines
and with American ores. It has been a
wonder to us that our dramatists did not see
the immense advantage of home themes for
their plays. American character is as full of
angles and observant points as French or
English character. We have as many scenes
worthy of illustration as in France
or England, and we tire of the end-
less chateau and wooded grange. In
humor our literature already surpasses
that of any other English writing and English
speaking nation. We send the humor of
Mark Twain, Artemus Ward and Bret Harte
to England, as well as the romances of Cooper,
the poetry of Longfellow, the essays of Em-
erson and the histories of Motley and Bancroft.
Our authors are read and quoted as household
words. Why is it that we have made no such
impression upon English, or even upon Ameri-
can taste with our dramas?

Why is it, also, that America has produced
no really great or even relatively great dra-
matic work? We have had many bright,
sprightly, clever things like "Moerocroft,"
"Sarstoga," "Belle Lamar" and the "Gilded
Age," but nothing really great. "Rip Van
Winkle" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" have made
a profound dramatic impression, and might in
some respects be ranked among high creations.
But they are based upon novels, and their
whole merit is that they are works of fiction,
not merely dramatic works. In the "Gilded
Age," which is now the current sensation,
the play rests upon one part alone.
This character—Colonel Sellers—is virtually
a character part, like Solon Shingle,
and would be almost effective as a recitation.
Beyond this the play has only indifferent
merit, and its success may be accepted as an
indication of the great desire of the American
people to find something of their own in
dramatic art. Our dramatists should take
courage from this to attempt something new
and bold. Why should not our dramas be
the work of more than one man? Let Mr.
Hay, Mr. Harte, Mr. Howard, Mark Twain
and some other of our young men of genius
combine and write a play, just as it is said
the wisest around the court of Elizabeth wrote
the plays of Shakespeare. In this age many minds
are as necessary to compose a first class play
as to compose a first class newspaper. Mr.
Howard has had so much success as a
dramatist that perhaps he will lead in the
work. Let us see if we can have a first class
play. America has succeeded in too many
things to fail in the drama.

A TERRIBLE STORM IN ENGLAND swept over
the northern portion of that country and along
its seacoast yesterday, involving the destruc-
tion of a great amount of property and of
many lives, it is feared, from the losses re-
ported. An October tempest on this side
the Atlantic may be the next development
from this atmospheric disturbance on the
other side. It is the season of the year for a
wide range of storms in all these latitudes.

LOUISIANA AFFAIRS continue in an inexplic-
ably mixed up condition; but as every day
in which extreme measures are postponed is a
day gained for negotiation between the con-
tending parties we hope that negotiations
will be persevered in until a full and satisfac-
tory compromise is reached, or at least until
the meeting of Congress.

LET THEM TRY IT.—The Council of the
Board of Trade at Quebec having been ad-
vised that the St. Lawrence River and Gulf
from that city to the sea can be navigated
in winter by steam vessels, have recom-
mended the experiment to the Dominion
government. Let them try it. It may be
news to many of our readers that Quebec is
cut off from the sea during the winter.

A TERRIFIC BOILER EXPLOSION was the most
notable event in Baltimore yesterday. A rotten
boiler, or careless management, and no body
to blame, will probably, as usual, be the
conclusion of the investigation.

The City Estimates.

The Board of Apportionment met yesterday,
and adjourned in order to allow the Comptrol-
ler to make out a budget for 1875. Mr.
Green's recent financial statement, addressed
to Mr. William A. Booth and others, proves
the necessity of a large reduction in the esti-
mates of the present year for the expenses of
the city government. Leaving out of the cal-
culation the revenue bonds, which are simply
money raised in anticipation of taxes, and
paid as the taxes come in, we have the fol-
lowing comparative condition of the debt in
1871 and 1874, by Mr. Green's showing:—

	Sept. 16, 1871.	Sept. 16, 1874.
Funded debt.....	\$2,119,158	\$18,120,819
Temporary debt.....	11,524,600	21,705,073
Total bonded debt.....	\$3,643,758	\$39,825,892
Debt in September, 1871.....		\$3,943,653

Increase in three years.....\$43,982,134

If we give Mr. Green the benefit of all he
claims in his last financial stump speech the
fact is still before the taxpayers that they owe
just upon forty-four million dollars more than
they owed when Mr. Green took charge of the
city finances. The practical questions are, not
who made this debt or who is to be blamed
for its rapid accumulation, but how is it to
be paid and what measures can be adopted to
prevent its further increase? If Mr. Green is
not working faithfully and intelligently to that
end he is unfit to be at the head of the
financial department of the city government.

The Comptroller claims by some unintelli-
gible process of figuring to have reduced the
debt in three years thirteen million dollars,
and elsewhere in his statement alleges that
five million five hundred thousand dollars
of the money raised by taxation in 1872, 1873
and 1874 has been applied to the payment of
the public debt. Both assertions are equally
false. The following items of the tax levies
of those three years are all that have been ap-
plied to the payment of the public debt:—

1872—Redemption of city debt.....	\$85,420
1873—Redemption of city debt.....	\$60,763
Reduction of city debt, ch. 585, Law of 1873.....	250,000
1874—Redemption of city debt.....	1,285,783

Total in three years.....\$2,881,966

In these three years there fell due taxes and
bonds of the city and county amounting
in round numbers to sixty million dollars.
We therefore paid of our liabilities, as they
became payable, less than three million dollars,
and gave new evidences of indebtedness for,
or "bridged over," fifty-seven millions. This
is as if a merchant should pay five cents on
the dollar as his notes fell due and give new
notes for ninety-five cents on the dollar.
Every business man knows how long such a
merchant would remain outside the list of
bankrupts. Yet, while we have paid only one-
twentieth of the amount of our debts as they
became due in the last three years,
we raised for the expenses of the government,
in 1872, \$34,036,290; in 1873, \$31,061,690, and
in 1874, \$35,312,816.

It must be clear to every man of sense that
the true method of financial reform is to
enforce the economical administration of the
affairs of the municipal departments, to cut
off all needless expenditures and to devote as
much as possible of the money raised by tax-
ation to the payment of our bonds as they fall
due. The pruning knife should be unsparingly
applied and the heads of departments
should be compelled to manage their public
business as they would their private business,
and not use the people's money as a fund to
increase their personal patronage or to pro-
mote their selfish interests. The financial
department can be run for \$150,000 at the
outside. Every other department should be
similarly reduced, and, above all, no public
official should be allowed to add any portion
of the expenses of his office to the debt account.
The people look to Messrs. Vance and Wheeler
to force such a reform in the estimates as is
now imperatively demanded in the interests of
the taxpayers; and as Mr. Havemeyer is about
to relieve the city of his official company he
cannot do better than to give his voice also in
favor of a wholesome and radical change in
the departmental expenditures.

A Total Eclipse of the Moon.

Throughout the United States and over all
this Continent and far out in the Atlantic
Ocean and the Pacific the total eclipse of the
moon, which will take place in the evening of
the 24th and the morning of the 25th inst., or
in the night between Saturday and Sunday,
will be visible at all points not cut off by
a veil of clouds from the beautiful phenom-
enon. The moon will enter the penumbra or
light shadow of the earth to the observer
on Manhattan Island at forty-eight minutes
past eleven P. M. Saturday. She will begin
to melt away in the earth's darker or com-
plete shadow at fifty minutes past midnight.
She will be totally eclipsed or melted away
into darkness at four minutes past two A. M.,
and at fifty-six minutes past three A. M., re-
appearing in all her glory, we shall, with favor-
ing skies, again see.

—Meek Dian's crest

Float through the azure air an island of the blest.
A full description of the eclipse, with ac-
companying illustrations of its various phases
and a brief historical review of eclipses of
the sun and moon from the earliest records of
these phenomena, we give on another page of
this paper. Of all the celestial wonders of
the passing year, excepting Coggia's comet,
this eclipse to the people of this Continent
will be remembered as the most interesting, for
with a fair sky they will have the opportunity
to see, from the beginning to the end, the
passing of the moon through the shadow cast
across her path by the earth. There was a
total eclipse of the sun on the 16th of April
last, but it was invisible in North America;
there was a partial eclipse of the moon on the
1st of May, but it was invisible in the United
States; there was an annular eclipse of the
sun on the 10th of this present month (that
peculiar eclipse in which the sun's disk is
wholly obscured by the moon's shadow ex-
cept a bright ring around the border), but it
was invisible in America. In December
there will be a partial eclipse of the sun, in
the transit of the planet Venus—that is, if a
small black speck gliding over the face of the
sun may be called even a partial eclipse; but
it will be visible only in Asia, Australia,
a part of Africa and some of the South Sea
islands. This eclipse of Saturday night will
be the first and the last for this year of
celestial eclipses visible in the United States,
and it may therefore be distinguished here-
after as the great American eclipse of the
moon of 1874.

For scientific purposes an eclipse of the
moon is of little or no value. It may, per-
haps, serve through powerful telescopes to

bring into bolder relief along the line of the
retreating and returning light over the moon
the hideous volcanic projections and cavities
of her rugged surface; but otherwise it is of
no scientific value beyond the confirmation so
far of the ascertained clockwork of our solar
system. Far different in its importance to
the world of science will be the approaching
transit of Venus, whereby the true distance of
our great central luminary from this little
satellite which we inhabit is to be fixed and
established, and whereby the sailor upon the
high seas is to be correctly guided in his
reckonings.

We hope that an unclouded or favoring sky
through Saturday night, from the Atlantic to
the Pacific, will afford the American people an
inviting occasion for a full observation of a
total eclipse of the moon; but upon this point
they will doubtless, during the day, be en-
lightened, so far as possible, from our national
clerk of the weather.

THE ARMY OF THE JAMES.—This society had
a pleasant reunion in this city yesterday at
the theatre of the Union League Club. The
address of welcome to the members by Gen-
eral Butler was the leading feature of the day,
and a fine banquet, largely attended, was the
evening's entertainment.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Chancellor John V. L. Pruyn, of Albany, is at
the Brevoort House.

State Senator Jarvis Lord, of Rochester, is stay-
ing at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Major Thomas J. Haines, United States Army,
has arrived at the Glenham Hotel.

Paymaster John F. Tarbel, United States Navy,
is quartered at the Windsor Hotel.

State Engineer Sylvanus H. Sweet, of Albany, is
stopping at the